



Minutes

Council Board of Directors Meeting

March 17, 2016

5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Blazing Star Room, Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Ngodup called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

I. COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Greg Schwartz, Ben Kwon, and Eileen Sussman from the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association (MNAPABA) presented. Mr. Schwartz described the history of the MNAPABA, a 501c6 organization with 190 members, and an affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Mr. Kwon expressed MNAPABA desire to provide resources for legislative testimony, provide connections to greater APA community through legal clinics, and write editorials and letters on behalf of Council board causes. Presenters described issues of concern for MNAPABA including increased APA judicial appointments, providing resources for legal career pipeline, and improving their organizational outreach. Ms. Her thanked MNAPABA presenters and acknowledged the organization's support on the Council's gender-based violence initiatives. Council board members engaged in conversation about MNAPABA's goals and future collaborations.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

David Maeda

George Thawmoo

Amy Nop

Thaoke Her

Saengmany Ratsabout

Tsewang Ngodup

Grace Lee

Faamati Winey

Senator Roger Chamberlain

Representative Carolyn Laine

Senator FOUNG Hawj

Staff: Sia Her, Karina Vang, and Anjuli Mishra

Absent: Anil Hurkadli. Melissa Kwon, Representative Rod Hamilton



With 11 out of 14 voting members present, there was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2015 MINUTES

Chair Ngodup presented to the Board the meeting minutes of November 19, 2015.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of November 19, 2015.

BY: Mr. Maeda and seconded by Ms. Nop. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2016 AGENDA

Chair Ngodup presented to the Board the meeting agenda of March 17, 2016.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of March 17, 2016.

BY: Mr. Maeda and seconded by Ms. Nop. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

V. INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Ngodup thanked elected Board members for continued commitment. Chair Ngodup recognized and welcomed new Board members. These Board members are:

- Mr. Saengmany Ratsabout
- Ms. Amy Nop
- Ms. Thaoke Her
- Mr. Anil Hurkadli

Chair Ngodup recognized new staff member, Anjuli Mishra, as the Council Research Analyst. All Board members and staff members gave a brief introduction of themselves and the communities they represent.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Her outlined administrative, staff, projects/programs, community relations, government relations, and community outreach updates. Ms. Her discussed the status of the website agreement with MN.IT, and a proposal for access to the GovDelivery system. Ms. Her then provided an update on the status of the Violence Against Asian Women and Children Working Group. Ms. Her stated that this year Council will not host an Asian Pacific Islander Day at the Capitol, and deferred to the Government Relations committee report for further explanation.

Chair Ngodup asked about the progress of the Emerging Communities report. Ms. Her responded that Council research staff will allocate time to complete this report after the legislative session ends.

Ms. Lee asked about the status of a letter draft that was sent to Board members. Ms. Her responded that the letter was sent to the Governor's office, as prescribed by the Board. Ms. Lee asked that a copy of the letter be provided to Board members. Ms. Her confirmed that a copy of the letter would be sent out to Board members, and hard copies would be provided at the next Board meeting.



Mr. Maeda noted Senator Housley's comments on the annual Legislative Report, and asked if there were any additional reactions from legislators. Ms. Her responded that staff has consistently received positive feedback, and explained in greater detail the nature of Senator Housley's response. Chair Ngodup expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the staff and the executive director on the 2015 annual report.

Ms. Her reported that she accepted two invitations to speak in Wisconsin on the issue of gender-based violence. Mr. Ratsabout asked if the state allowed for funding towards staff travel outside of Minnesota. Ms. Her responded that in this instance the question was never raised, since the University of Wisconsin requested to cover travel expenses. Mr. Ratsabout suggested that for transparency purposes, non-Minnesota activities be included in a separate section.

Ms. Her shared that the Governor's office initiated a meeting, with the Chair and executive director, on CAPM legislative initiatives for this session and thoughts about the Governor's supplemental budget. Chair Ngodup emphasized the significance of the meeting request and the hope that it would lead to future meetings with the Governor's office.

VII. MARCH 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Her presented the financial report to the Board, and noted that there has been little change since the last Board meeting. Mr. Ratsabout asked if \$16,000 is the historical amount allocated to the Heritage Month event. Ms. Her responded that the budget amount is set by the number of expected attendees and this year's event would be smaller, consistent with the Board's request. Mr. Ratsabout inquired if funds were carried over and if the dinner ever created a deficit. Ms. Her responded that there is no funding carried over, and there has never been a deficit of funds for it.

MOTION: To approve the March 2016 Financial Report.

BY: Senator Chamberlain and seconded by Mr. Ratsabout. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events Committee:

The Events Committee Chair reported that the keynote speaker, entertainment and food vendor have been confirmed for the evening. Ms. Winey encouraged all Board members to assist in nominations and table sponsorship. Ms. Her gave historical context for the dinner and clarified the nominations process. Mr. Ratsabout asked if the contract has already been signed with the event venue. Ms. Her and Ms. Vang stated that a \$4,700 contract has been signed with the venue and caterer.

Government Relations Committee:

Mr. Maeda distributed the Government Relations Committee report to Board members. Mr. Maeda and Ms. Her provided further detail on the decision to not host a 2016 API Day at the Capitol. Mr. Maeda also highlighted sections of the committee report on the legislative agenda



and proposed legislative priorities for 2016. Mr. Maeda thanked current members of the Government Relations committee are David Maeda, George Thawmoo, and Grace Lee; and welcomed other Board members to join.

Senator Chamberlain shared that a bill was heard on disaggregated data in the Senate K-12 Education committee, but that the bill author had not reached out to Council. Ms. Her explained the content of the bill and Council staff actions.

Ms. Her updated Board members on the status of the Exploited Women and Children Rental Assistance Program, and changes made to the language of the bill. Chair Ngodup requested clarification on the term "emerging communities."

MOTION: To approve the 2016 Legislative Agenda

BY: Senator Chamberlain and seconded by Mr. Maeda. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

MOTION: To approve the 2016 Exploited Women and Children Rental Assistance Program bill

BY: Senator Chamberlain and seconded by Senator Hawj. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

Executive Committee:

Chair Ngodup summarized the Executive committee report and noted major changes to the strategic plan. Management Analysis and Development (MAD) has been recruited to develop the 2016-2017 strategic plan. Ms. Her further elaborated on the strategic planning and analysis process. Chair Ngodup clarified that the cost of retaining MAD is not yet reflected in the budget. Ms. Her stated that the MAD service agreement will come before the Board during the May meeting. Ms. Lee asked for further explanation on the structure of MAD. Ms. Her further justified the decision for selecting MAD.

Chair Ngodup stated that the Council is waiting for one additional Board appointment to represent the Vietnamese community.

IX. APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF OMBUDSPERSON FOR FAMILIES

Chair Ngodup and Ms. Her summarized the role of the Office of Ombudspersons for Families and the current applicant. Board members asked for further clarification on the Board members for the Office of the Ombudsperson for Families. Ms. Her further explained the relationship between Council and the Office of Ombudsperson for Families and relevant legislative actions. Senator Hawj requested that further information on the advisory Board and its effectiveness be shared with the Board at future meetings. Mr. Maeda reflected that the last appointment decision was made with even less information on the candidate. Chair Ngodup asked about the importance of making an appointment decision at this Board meeting. Senator Hawj asked for more information on current legislative action regarding the Office of the Ombudsperson for Families. Senator Chamberlain and Ms. Lee expressed concern over the limited information provided to Board regarding the candidate. Board members discussed the possibility of forming



a committee to study the effectiveness of the appointment process and the effectiveness of the Board at the Office of Ombudsperson for Families. Ms. Lee asked for further clarification on the application process.

MOTION: To table the motion for appointment to the Office for Ombudsperson for Families.
BY: Senator Chamberlain and seconded by Mr. Maeda. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 P.M.